



Prayer Resources

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Strange Answers To Prayer

And they came over unto the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gadarenes. Mark 5:1

When Jesus visited Gadara, He encountered four unusual prayers and His answers to those prayers are unquestionably strange from a human perspective. The requests made by the perceived deserving (the suffering and saved demoniac) were rejected; while those made by the perceived undeserving (Satan's demons and the selfish Gadarenes) were granted!

The Demoniac's Prayer To Be Left Alone – Mark 5:7

Not wanting to pay the price of behavior change, the suffering demoniac asked Jesus to leave him alone. Jesus denied the request and delivered him from his demons.

The Demons' Prayer To Enter The Swine – Mark 5:12

Desiring to avoid their ultimate destruction, the desperate demons asked Jesus to allow them to enter the swine. Jesus granted the request and revealed the inevitable destruction of both the demons and the prosperity of Gadara.

The Gadarenes' Prayer For Jesus To Leave – Mark 5:17

Overwhelmed by fear for their future, the Gadarenes asked that Jesus leave their region. Jesus granted their request by visibly departing, but He left His life-changing influence in their midst.

The Believer's Prayer To Be Discipled – Mark 5:18

Longing to be in His new Lord's presence, the delivered demoniac asked to travel with Jesus and His disciples. Once again Jesus denied this man's request and sent him back to a powerful ministry with the Gadarenes.

Each of these requests made to Jesus was answered filtered through His omniscience and His omnipotence. He viewed the entire scene from a Kingdom perspective with His divine ability to make *all things work together for good* (Romans 8:28). He answered the prayers of the demons and the Gadarenes in letter, but not in spirit; while He answered both prayers of the demoniac in spirit, but not in letter. Worthy prayers are rejected because there exists a greater good to accomplish; while unworthy prayers are answered because they unwittingly fit into God's eternal purposes. While prayer is a mystery to us, we can rest assured that we have confidence that *if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us* (1 John 5:14); but it is wonderful knowledge, indeed, that the risen Jesus serves as our prayer partner Who refines our requests before they reach the Father!